

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following heading at page 1, line 2 after the title of the specification:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading at page 1, line 10 of the specification:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading at page 2, line 1 of the specification:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading at page 3, line 9 of the specification:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following heading at page 11, line 1 of the specification:

EXEMPLIFICATIONS

Please insert the following heading at page 20, line 32 of the specification:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Please delete the following paragraph at page 4, lines 22-31:

~~International application WO 88/09397 describes the preparation of numerous oligonucleotide probes which hybridise to certain regions of 16S and 23 S ribosomal nucleic acid. International application WO 90/14444 and US patents 5,592,978, 5,521,300 and 5,292,874 describe the preparation of individual probes which bind to certain regions of ribosomal nucleic acid but which are specific for one species of organism or one genus or sub-generic classes thereof. However, in contrast to the present invention, none of these publications disclose, either in concept or in reality, sets of oligonucleotides designed to work in unison by hybridizing to a uniquely specified region of 23S ribosomal nucleic acid after amplification of bacterial nucleic acid with one specific pair of amplification primers.~~

Please replace the lines at page 4A, lines 5-8 with the following:

The ~~[[O]]~~oligonucleotide probes, the sequences of which are set out below, ~~have proved highly successful when used in various combinations in test typically carried out in hospitals. They~~ can be used singly for the identification of certain individual species or in a panel or array for the identification of many different species.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

(SEQ ID NO: 1) 5' GCGATTTCYGAAYGGGGRAACCC

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 9 with the following amended paragraph:

(SEQ ID NO: 2) 5' digoxigenin-TTCGCCTTTCCTCACGGTACT